



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Brigham City, UT Waterbird/Raptor Survey April 10-11, 2015

A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on April 10-11, 2015 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers and Student Conservation Association Intern Sara Prussing recording 48 species. Waterfowl were abundant across the refuge as spring migration continues. Spring breeding season has also begun with Canada geese and great blue herons observed tending nests and incubating eggs. Western and Clark's grebes were observed doing their courtship ceremony. Recent arrivals to the refuge include black-crowned night heron, Caspian tern, Franklin's gull, snowy plover, white-faced ibis, and willet. Highlights of the survey include Virginia rail and sora which were heard vocalizing in the wetland vegetation. Also sighted were a golden eagle and a hooded merganser, both of which are uncommon visitors to the refuge and also what appeared to be a leucistic gadwall. Leucistic birds are partially pale or white and resemble albino birds but are not true albinos. Prior to the beginning of the official survey on April 11, an osprey was observed flying over the Refuge headquarters area – another uncommon bird in this area.

Canada goose	497	Great egret	1
Mallard	2,164	Black-crowned night heron	9
Northern pintail	3,740	White-faced ibis	1,196
American green-winged Teal	20,642	Snowy plover	1
Cinnamon teal	4,668	Killdeer	19
Northern shoveler	20,994	Black-necked stilt	2,567
Gadwall	7,189	American avocet	5,443
American wigeon	3,823	Willet	3
Canvasback	419	Greater yellowlegs	13
Redhead	2,984	Long-billed curlew	41
Lesser scaup	7,917	Marbled godwit	231
Common goldeneye	4	Long-billed dowitcher	32
Bufflehead	685	Franklin's gull	466
Hooded merganser	1	Ring-billed gull	365
Red-breasted merganser	6	California gull	5,159
Ring-necked duck	1	Caspian tern	69
Ruddy duck	8,289	Virginia rail	3
Unknown ducks	2,900	Sora	2
Pied-billed grebe	11	American coot	15,729
Eared grebe	9	Sandhill crane	13
Western grebe	139	Golden eagle	1
Clark's grebe	60	Northern harrier	10
American white pelican	309	American kestrel	2
Double-crested cormorant	584	Peregrine falcon	1
Great blue heron	113		

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